

In South Africa the coal bed is extensive and the seams are from 12 feet to 14 feet thick.

IRON.

866. The iron ores of the Dominion have a wide range, both geographically and geologically. From Vancouver Island in the west to Cape Breton Island in the east, they occur at varied intervals. Sir William Fairbairn, in "Iron, its History, Properties and Processes of Manufacture," says: "In the Mineral and Geological Department of the Exhibition of 1862 were exhibited striking specimens of iron ore from the colonies, among which was the remarkable collection from Canada, consisting of oxide, red hematite and bog ores. The thickness of some of the beds from which the specimens were taken is worthy of notice. In Nova Scotia some of the richest ores yet discovered occur in boundless abundance. The iron manufactured from them is of the very best quality, and is equal to the finest Swedish metal." In the same province the iron ore, the coal and the flux lie in close contiguity to each other, and are within a comparatively short distance from fine ship harbours, making that province one of the best regions in the world for the seat of iron and steel ship-building on a large scale.

867. Magnetic ores occur abundantly throughout several counties of Ontario. An important deposit in the township of South Crosby has been worked for years. A very fine and valuable ore exists as a large deposit in North Crosby. The contiguous townships of Madoc, Marmora, Belmont and Seymour contain several beds of magnetic iron ore. In the region west of Lake Superior, the Province of Ontario has a country rich in iron ore. In the Province of Quebec there are large and valuable deposits of magnetic ore. In the County of Beauce a bed of granular iron ore, about two-thirds magnetic, with a vein 45 feet wide, occurs in serpentine.

868. Hematite iron ores are found in all parts of Canada. One of the most valuable deposits in Quebec province is near Hull—opposite Ottawa—a specular ore, assaying from 64 to 68 per cent of metallic iron. In New Brunswick large deposits of hematite ore are found near Woodstock. Limonite and bog ores are widely distributed.

869. Chromic Iron.—During the year large deposits of chromic iron were found in Coleraine, Province of Quebec. The ore averaged over 50 per cent of metal, is easily mined and finds a ready market in the United States.

Of the best qualities of chromic iron the manufacturers of Pennsylvania and Baltimore consume annually from 4,000 to 6,000 tons. The total production in the United States in 1894 was 2,653 tons and the importation 3,200 tons; the latter mostly from Asia Minor. The output from the Coleraine mines, Canada, in 1894, was about 1,700 tons. Chromic steel is manufactured in the United States for armour plates, shells, safes, &c. Chrome iron is largely used in the manufacture of bichromates of potassium and sodium, which products constitute the base of the chrome yellow, orange and green, colours.

870. In 1892 there were seven blast furnaces in operation in Canada—two at Londonderry, N.S., two at Drummondville, Que., one at Radnor Forges, Que., and two in Pictou county, N.S.